LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (**Cancelled**).

2.   (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus for electronic collaboration in an environment including a plurality of communities, each of the plurality of communities having a plurality of live users and at least one community administrator, the apparatus comprising:

a community creation database that receives and stores preliminary profile data associated with a candidate user, a submission of the preliminary profile data indicating an interest of the candidate user in joining one of the plurality of communities;

a first filter that ascertains and controls the preliminary profile data, whereupon the candidate user associated with the preliminary profile data is deemed acceptable for participation in said one of the plurality of communities, wherein the candidate user associated with the validated preliminary profile data thereby becomes a live user of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities;

wherein at least one profile is created for the live user, wherein the profile includes descriptive information relating to the live user, said descriptive information includes a first data corresponding to a set of attributes predefined by at least one of the plurality of communities and a second data corresponding to a second set of attributes entered by said candidate user;

a search engine that searches for data related to another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities with which to communicate based on at least a portion of said second data; and

a second filter that monitors communications between the plurality of live users within said one of the plurality of communities, the second filter including at least a flagging filter that flags communications between the plurality of live users based on an analysis of at least a textual portion of said communications according to predetermined criteria established by a monitor, wherein the flagging filter is configured to flag communications for review prior to release to their intended recipient.

3.   **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein validation of the preliminary profile data includes an administrator of said one of the plurality of communities approving the candidate user.

4.   **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein validation of the preliminary profile data includes automatic validation based on one or more attributes of the preliminary profile data.

5.   **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the one or more attributes include one or more of previous approval by an administrator of a specific other one of the plurality of communities and previous validation as a live user in said one of the plurality of communities.

6. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the preliminary profile data indicates an interest of the candidate user in joining at least one other of the plurality of communities.

7. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile includes one or more of:

a group profile that is accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities,

an individual profile that is not accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities, and

a project profile that includes blind contact information regarding the live user.

8. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the search engine also searches for live users in communities other than said one of the plurality of communities.

9. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile of the live user includes one or more labels represent the descriptive information relating to the live user and wherein the search engine searches for another of the plurality of live users using labels associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

10. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one profile may be created by the live user in any language, wherein the language in which the at least one profile was created is a characteristic of the at least one profile.

11.   (**Previously presented**) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the search engine searches for another of the plurality of live users using a language associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

12.   (**Currently Amended**) A method for facilitating electronic collaboration in an environment including a plurality of communities, each of the plurality of communities having a plurality of live users and at least one community administrator, the method comprising:

receiving, at a community creation database, preliminary profile data associated with a candidate user, a submission of the preliminary profile data indicating an interest of the candidate user in joining one of the plurality of communities;

ascertaining and controlling, at a first filter, the preliminary profile data, whereupon the candidate user associated with the preliminary profile data is deemed acceptable for participation in said one of the plurality of communities, wherein the candidate user associated with the validated preliminary profile data thereby becomes a live user of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities;

enabling creation of at least one profile for the live user, wherein the profile includes descriptive information relating to the live user, said descriptive information includes a first data corresponding to a set of attributes predefined by at least one of the plurality of communities and a second data corresponding to a second set of attributes entered by said candidate user;

searching, at a search engine, for data related to another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities with which to communicate based on at least a portion of said second data; and

monitoring communications between the plurality of live users within said one of the plurality of communities at a second filter, the second filter including at least a flagging filter that flags communications between the plurality of live users based on an analysis of at least a textual portion of said communications according to predetermined criteria <u>established by a monitor</u>, wherein the flagging filter is configured to flag communications for review prior to release to their intended recipient.

13.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein validating the preliminary profile data further comprises an administrator of said one of the plurality of communities approving the candidate user.

14.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein validating the preliminary profile data further comprises automatically validating the preliminary profile data based on one or more attributes of the preliminary profile data.

15.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 14, wherein the one or more attributes include one or more of previous approval by an administrator of a specific other one of the plurality of communities and previous validation as a live user in said one of the plurality of communities.

16.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein the preliminary profile data indicates an interest of the candidate user in joining at least one other of the plurality of communities.

17.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile includes one or more of:

a group profile that is accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities,

an individual profile that is not accessible to the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities, and

a project profile that includes blind contact information regarding the live user.

18.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, further comprising searching, at the search engine, for live users in communities other than said one of the plurality of communities.

19.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile of the live user includes one or more labels represent the descriptive information relating to the live user and wherein searching for another of the plurality of live users further comprises searching labels associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.

20.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one profile may be created by the live user in any language, wherein the language in which the at least one profile was created is a characteristic of the at least one profile.

21.   **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein searching for another of the plurality of live users in said one of the plurality of communities further comprises searching for another of the plurality of live users using a language associated with profiles of the plurality of live users.